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The Newsletter of the Newfoundland Historic Trust

Spring-Summer 2003

Southcott Awards 20 June

Colette Nap, Chair of the Awards Committee, is pleased to announce the Southcott Awards ceremony will be held on June 20th at 3:30 PM in the Foran Room, St John's City Hall. Members and friends of the Newfoundland Historic Trust are invited to attend. Music will be by Glen Nuotio on the piano. Following the ceremony refreshments, courtesy the City, will be served.

Ms Nap notes that recipients from across the province are planning to attend. Award recipients, Southcott Committee members and Trust board members will be identified this year by name tags. This is something new which, says Colette, the committee hopes will promote conversation.

A highlight of the event is the photographic presentation and description of the award winning properties. Greg Locke, our regular photographer, has just completed photographing all the buildings, and scripts are prepared to coordinate with the sites. This year the images will be in PowerPoint form. Greg has obtained top quality equipment to ensure an outstanding presentation.

Another new addition this year is display booth which will have Southcott posters for sale and a display board indicating past winners. The poster features a selection of architectural styles from around the province and uses past Southcott winners as examples.

On a final note the Southcott Awards are broadening their scope and "Modernism" in Newfoundland & Labrador is being addressed in the significance of preservation. The Committee hopes everyone will be pleased and is looking forward to the big day!

Newfoundland Historic Trust PO Box 2403 St John's NL A1C 6E7

Doors Open in St John's

The Newfoundland Historic Trust is spearheading Newfoundland and Labrador's very first Doors Open weekend event, set to take place in St. John's this September. Willow Jackson has been hired as coordinator, and will oversee this large "open house" offering the public a look inside significant buildings, some of which they might not otherwise have access to, along with an interpretation of the importance of the properties from an historical, cultural, or architectural perspective. The Newman Wine Vaults will be one of the featured sites.

This project is funded in part by a Canada-Newfoundland Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement, with contributions also from the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Young Canada Works program. The City of St. John's is providing an office for Willow, fittingly at the historic Railway-Coastal Museum building on Water Street West. For more information call 739-7870.

Newfoundland and Labrador's only historic wine vaults at 436 Water Street, St. John's will be staffed and **open to visitors June 16 - August 31, 2003**. Hours are 10 am - 4:30 pm throughout the week, or by appointment.

Fortified wines are available for purchase in the Vaults.

There is no admission fee, but donations are gratefully accepted.

To arrange port tasting for groups or to rent the vaults for receptions or events, call Lara Maynard at 739-7870 or e.mail generalmanager@historictrust.com

St John's Heritage Areas, Heritage Buildings and Public Views Study by the PHB Group Inc.,

architects of the Rooms, has been received by the City of St John's. The study was commissioned to examine the boundaries of the heritage areas in the city; recommend properties for heritage designation and coordinate these with provincial and federal agencies; and identify and rank significant public views.

Among its recommendations, the PHB Group advises that the total **Heritage Area** in downtown St John's be increased; that there be three categories of Heritage Area; and that the process of approvals be less dependent on the existing Heritage Advisory Committee. The report also recommends the appointment of a Heritage Development Officer and a public awareness programme.

Among **Heritage Building** recommendations, the process used by the Heritage Foundation of N&L to designate buildings should be adopted by the city; and the city should expand its listings to recognize buildings designated by the provincial and federal governments.

The report also recommends **Public Views**, view planes and street end views be identified and protected; and that maintaining existing associated building heights is the best way to protect views.

The full report can be reviewed at <http://www.stjohns.ca/csj/NewsDetails?id=81>



Dale Jarvis, Chair of the Newman Wine Vaults Committee, and Leida Finlayson, former General Manager of the Newfoundland Historic Trust with the Honourable Edward Roberts, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador at the Manning Awards reception at Government House, March 11, 2003.

The Manning Award for Excellence in the Public Presentation of Historic Places is administered by the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Newman Wine Vaults Committee of the Newfoundland Heritage Trust was the 2002 award winner in the provincial category for their fine work to restore, interpret and promote the Vaults, and for doing an exemplary job of making the site accessible for public visitation and multiple use.

The work of the committee has been cited as a testament to public will to preserve historic structures. Leida Finlayson and Dale Jarvis accepted the 2003 Manning Award on behalf of the Newfoundland Historic Trust at a ceremony at Government House. The citation for the work of the Newman Wine Vaults Committee to which both Leida and Dale have contributed, along with Pat O'Brien and others, reads in part "Inside a once non-descript warehouse in downtown St. John's is a tale of a high seas chase more than three centuries ago that would give birth to Newfoundland becoming an exporter of one of the world's finest ports.

Thanks to the efforts of the Newfoundland Historic Trust (NHT), a non-profit organization with a goal to preserve the province's built heritage, that same warehouse known as the Newman Wine Vaults is now a Provincial Historic Site and a registered heritage structure.

The Newman Wine Vaults, which are the only vaults of this kind in Newfoundland, were long used to mature Newman's Port which has since become an icon and tradition in the province. In 1997 the Newman Wine Vaults Committee was struck when the NHT volunteered to restore and operate the Vaults for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Partnerships were developed and maintained with organizations that donated time, funds, expertise and artifacts to the project.

The first goal of the Committee was to restore the Vaults ensuring that the structural integrity of the building was secure. This massive undertaking became all the more complicated by an archaeological dig at the site in the 70's that tore up the floors. Once restoration was complete, the Committee proceeded to make the Vaults accessible to the public, provide informative interpretation on the liquor trade in Newfoundland and to have the facility function as a versatile, and relevant space in contemporary society.

The Committee has done an exemplary job in fulfilling its goals, for in the last couple of years the Vaults have been promoted and used for live theatre performances, art exhibits, wine tasting, private receptions and as a locale for the International Sound Symposium. Taking the virtually unknown Newman Wine Vaults on the verge of destruction to a well used, and much appreciated landmark is a remarkable accomplishment. Furthermore, as demonstrated through the large community support for the project and numerous visitors to the Vaults, it is a testament to public will to preserve historic structures. The Newman Wine Vaults Committee of the Newfoundland Historic Trust was recognized for doing an exemplary job of making the vaults accessible for public visitation and multiple use.

Newfoundland Historic Trust Events

June 16

Official Opening, Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site, 436 Water Street, St. John's.
10am - 4 pm. Call Lara Maynard, 709-739-7870.

June 20

Annual **Southcott Awards** Ceremony, presented by the Newfoundland Historic Trust. Foran/Greene Room, City Hall, City of St. John's. 3:30 pm, reception to follow. Everyone welcome.

June 21, 2003

The Trust is helping the City of St. John's to mark St. John's Day with a **Windows of the West End Walking Tour**. Guided tours will start at 10am and 2pm at the former Newfoundland Railway building off Water Street, which is now the Railway-Coastal Museum and houses the City Archives. From there, it's on to James J. O'Mara Pharmacy Museum and the Newman Wine Vaults, finishing up at George Street United Church, where there will be Newfoundland food and entertainment as part of the Church's soup kitchen fundraising.

July 4-August 10

For a little theatre, Edgar Allan Poe's **"The Cask of Amontillado"** and other stories will be staged by the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival at the Newman Wine Vaults each Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening from July 4-August 10, 2003. Doors open at 9pm. For ticket information call Shakespeare by the Sea at 576-0980 (seasonal) or email sbts@nfld.com.

July 14

We'll mark the **surrender of the Little Emperor, Napoleon**, to the British with an historical re-enactment and Newman's port wine toast (just as the British military are said to have done!)
At the Vaults. Details to be announced.

September

Keep your eyes and ears open for information about Newfoundland and Labrador's very first **Doors Open** event being planned for September 2003 in St. John's. This will be an open house which invites the public into interesting buildings of historic or cultural significance to which we might not otherwise have access.

The ongoing restoration and interpretation of
The Newman Wine Vaults Provincial Historic Site

is supported by

the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Human Resources Development Canada, Comprehensive Economic Development Agreement and the Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation.